

Report to the 2011 Iowa General Assembly

Collaboration and Teambuilding

Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants
www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure
(515) 281-0254

Iowa Board of Medicine
www.medicalboard.iowa.gov
(515) 281-5171

Joint Report to the 2011 Iowa General Assembly

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor of the State of Iowa to license applicants and impose licensee discipline as authorized by law.

Board powers are conferred by the Iowa Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature passed a bill to amend Iowa Code Chapter 148C by creating a new section that requires the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2009 to achieve this purpose.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine routinely route agendas, rules and other material that might be of interest to each other to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the two boards.

In 2008, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants initiated two national collaboratives to improve communication with medical boards and promote public protection. The first allows the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants to accept PA licensure verifications through VeriDoc, a primary data source also used by the Iowa Board of Medicine. The second allows boards to transmit information to and from the Federation of State Boards of Medicine Physician Assistant Disciplinary Alert System. The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants is the first independent PA board to participate in the medical alert system and serves as a model for other such boards.

Each board agreed as issues of interest are identified, to send representatives to the other board meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding of each board's position. In addition both boards shared their respective board member contact information with each other to facilitate communication. In October 2008 Mark Bowden met with the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants to discuss the chronic pain policy that both boards in conjunction with the Board of Nursing developed. In addition in January 2009 Mr. Friedmann, Chairperson Iowa Board of Physician Assistants, met with Mark Bowden, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Medicine, to discuss board communications and current issues of mutual interest.

During the 2008 legislative session Ed Friedmann, attended the March Board of Medicine's meeting to discuss the Iowa Physician Assistants position regarding Senate Study Bill 3003 and answer any questions board members might have.

To maximize resource use, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine investigators coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both boards. In addition both boards share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine hold regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, rulemaking, and discipline. Meeting agendas are posted on the Internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This

practice assures that the members of the professional boards remain informed about current and emerging issues impacting the practice of their respective licensees.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Bureau of Professional Licensure extends a standing invitation to Mark Bowden, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Medicine effective January 2009, to attend board meetings and has offered to facilitate his orientation to current regulatory issues impacting physician assistants.

In October 2009 the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants Board identified a problem with electronic prescription systems. Mr. Friedmann sent Mr. Bowden a summary of the issue and requested input from the Iowa Board of Medicine. Both Boards have since been discussing the issue.

In fall 2009, the Board of Medicine convened the Interventional Chronic Pain Management (ICPM) AdHoc Joint Committee. Mr. Ed Friedmann and staff of the Bureau of Professional Licensure participated in two meetings.

In December 2009, the Iowa Boards of Medicine and Pharmacy prepared a Memorandum regarding Dispensing of Antiviral Medications Released from the State Stockpile through the Iowa Department of Public Health. This Memorandum, addressed to local public health administrators, hospital emergency departments, regional epidemiologists and regional planners, references physician assistants as one category of prescriber and was shared with the Board of Physician Assistants as an informational item.

In June 2010 Theresa Hegmann attended the June 11, 2010 Board of Medicine meeting to present overview regarding the concept and history of PA's at a national and state level, quick overview of PA educational curriculum, and a closer look at patterns of PA practice in Iowa.

The Iowa Board of Medicine also filed proposed rules relating to interventional chronic pain management and med spas. The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants identified some concerns with some of the proposed language relating to the delegation and referral in the med spa rules and provided comments. Both Boards worked together in resolving those issues prior to the Iowa Board of Medicine adopting and filing the final rules.

The Boards continue to work together in sharing information regarding complaint cases that relate to practitioners from both Boards.

Each year, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine review pending legislation that impacts both boards and work collaboratively, when appropriate, to prepare legislative assessments.

In 2011, the Boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.